

# Eastern Sierra Nevada & Northern Mojave Desert Recreation Information Update October 6 - 12, 2010

## Eastern Sierra InterAgency Visitor Center

Junction of US HWY 395 & SR 136  
Lone Pine, California 93545

(760) 876-6222  
TDD 876-6228

**Open Daily: 8:00am to 6:00pm**

**ROADS:** Major Eastern Sierra roads are open; including HWY 395. Trans Sierra roads - SR 120 (Tioga Pass) is open. SR 108 (Sonora Pass) and SR 4 (Ebbets Pass) are closed due to snow. SR 89 (Monitor Pass) is closed due to snow. These roads will re-open when weather conditions allow. Mountain passes and roads are subject to immediate controls and/or closures. Drivers headed to the mountains need to be sure their vehicles are equipped with chains, including those with snowtires. For California highway conditions call 1-800-427-ROAD (1-800-427-7623) or visit the web at [www.dot.ca.gov/cgi-bin/roads.cgi](http://www.dot.ca.gov/cgi-bin/roads.cgi). Call 1-877-NVROADS (1-877-687-6237) or visit the web at [www.nevadadot.com/traveler/roads](http://www.nevadadot.com/traveler/roads), for Nevada roads.

The road to the **DEVILS POSTPILE NATIONAL MONUMENT** and Reds Meadow (SR 203) is open. Visit the **MAMMOTH LAKES WELCOME CENTER** for more information, permits, current recreation conditions, trail maps, wilderness information and visitor guides; open daily 8:00am to 5:00pm, or call 1-760-924-5500.

In the White Mountains, the paved road to the **ANCIENT BRISTLECONE PINE FOREST AND SCHULMAN GROVE** is open; the dirt road to the Patriarch Grove is open. Watch for snow & ice from recent storms; high clearance vehicles recommended.

Major highways through **DEATH VALLEY NATIONAL PARK** are open. The Big Pine, Devils Golf Course, West Side, Salt Creek, and Charcoal Kilns dirt roads are open. Titus Canyon road is closed due to recent rain. The North Pass Road into Saline Valley is open; high clearance 4x4 recommended. The South Pass road into Saline Valley is posted closed due to washouts from recent flooding. Rangers ask visitors traveling to remote desert valleys to leave a complete itinerary at home, obtain a good backcountry road map and be prepared for the unexpected. Drivers need to be sure their vehicle is in good condition and to carry an additional spare tire, extra gas, food and water. Check the website at [www.nps.gov/deva](http://www.nps.gov/deva) ("Plan Your Visit & Things To Do" section) for descriptions of backcountry roads, and the Morning Report for current information.

**WEATHER:** Unsettled conditions, with cool temperatures through Thursday, will diminish as high pressure builds over the Eastern Sierra and Northern Mojave starting Friday. Temperatures are expected to warm to near normal for the weekend with sunny and clear skies. Highs have been in the 20s in the mountains, 60s in the Owens Valley and mid 80s in Death Valley, with the lows ranging from the teens in the mountains, to the 50s in Death Valley.

**CAMPGROUNDS:** **INYO COUNTY, MONO COUNTY** and **BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT** sites are open. Privately operated campgrounds and RV facilities with hookups are open throughout the region.

**INYO and HUMBOLDT-TOIYABE NATIONAL FORESTS**, Lone Pine to Bridgeport, campgrounds are open. Campgrounds at higher elevations are starting to close for winter due to near freezing nighttime temperatures that can damage water systems. The Onion Valley campground is closed for the season. **BEARS ARE ACTIVE** - use food storage lockers when provided and check with campground hosts for more information. Please make sure that all food and trash is properly stored.

**YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK** - Yosemite Valley campgrounds have sites open and reservable. Reservations are accepted five months in advance on the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month, for a one-month block through [recreation.gov](http://recreation.gov); or call 1-877-444-6777. Campsites are available on a first-come, first-served basis at Wawona (SR 41 south of Yosemite Valley), Hodgdon Meadows (SR 120, near Big Oak Flat), Crane Flat (closes 10/12), Porcupine Flat, Tamarack Flat and Camp Four walk-in campground in Yosemite Valley. Call 1-209-372-0200 for recorded information, or visit the web site at [www.nps.gov/yose](http://www.nps.gov/yose).

In **DEATH VALLEY NATIONAL PARK**, open campgrounds include: Furnace Creek, Mesquite Springs, Emigrant (tent only/no fee), and Wildrose (no water/no fee). RV Hookups are available at Furnace Creek Ranch, Stovepipe Wells Village and Panamint Springs Resort. For more information, call 1-760-786-3200 or visit the park web site at [www.nps.gov/deva](http://www.nps.gov/deva).

Campsites are available throughout **SEQUOIA/KINGS CANYON NATIONAL PARKS** on a first-come/first-served and reservation basis. For recorded information to plan a visit to the park, call 1-559-565-3341 or [www.nps.gov/seki](http://www.nps.gov/seki).

## Cooperating Agencies of the Eastern Sierra InterAgency Visitor Center

Inyo County

California - Department of Transportation

Bureau of Land Management

California - Department of Fish & Game

National Park Service

Mono County

City of Los Angeles - Department of Water & Power

USDA - Forest Service

**FISHING:** The general fishing season is open in the Eastern Sierra and its waters are stocked regularly by the California Department of Fish and Game. The 2010 Eastern Sierra Fishing Guide is available at sporting good stores throughout the region. Copies of California fishing regulations are available at the Visitor Center, or on the web at [www.dfg.ca.gov](http://www.dfg.ca.gov).

**HUNTING:** General season for Mountain Quail is open. Blue/Ruffed Grouse is open through 10/11. General deer season for the Eastern Sierra is open in zone X8 (mostly Alpine County - through 10/10), X-12 (primarily northern Mono County - through 10/11) and X-9a/b (in Mono and Inyo Counties along the Sierra Escarpment - through 10/11). Zone X-10 (the Kern Plateau) is open through 10/10. Deer season, on the west side of the Sierra Nevada, is open in zones D-6 and D-7 (west and south of Yosemite National Park) and zones D8 and D9 (west and southwest of Sequoia/Kings Canyon National Parks). General season for deer in D-17 (primarily San Bernardino County, including the Mojave National Preserve) opens 10/9. Hunters should keep in mind that many people use these areas for other types of recreation; it's much safer to avoid hunting near developed sites, roads and trails. Hunting is not permitted in National Parks. For more information, check the web at [www.dfg.ca.gov](http://www.dfg.ca.gov).

**BACKCOUNTRY:** Backpackers should be prepared with winter gear for snowy/icy terrain, freezing temperatures and sudden weather changes. Recent snow makes trails difficult to locate and passes very slick. **Be Bear Aware** when parking at trailheads; vehicles must not be left with any food or related items that will attract these animals and result in significant damage. Hikers should be aware; hunting season for upland game birds and deer is open in the Sierra Nevada (except National Parks) and Eastern Sierra. In areas open to hunting, it's a good idea to wear bright colored clothes and stay on the trails.

**BEARS** (and other hungry animals, including marmots) are active in the backcountry. Backpackers should be prepared to protect their food (and all other items that emit odors) from such animals at all times! Backpackers are required to use portable, bear resistant food canisters on the Cottonwood Pass, Cottonwood Lakes, Mt. Whitney, Kearsarge Pass, Bishop Pass, Treasure Lakes, Dusy Basin, Palisade, Little Lakes Valley, Duck Pass/Purple Lake and Mammoth Lakes/Rush Creek trails of the National Forest and some Sequoia/Kings Canyon National Park trails. They are available to rent at many locations including the Visitor Center.

**WILDERNESS PERMITS** are required for overnight travel all year long. Trailhead quotas, which limit the number of hikers on trails, are in effect for Eastern Sierra wilderness areas, permits may be obtained at the InterAgency Visitor Center (Lone Pine), Bishop Ranger Station, Mammoth Lakes Welcome Center, Mono Basin Scenic Area Visitor Center (Lee Vining) and Bridgeport Ranger Station during office hours. For information on Inyo National Forest wilderness permits, please visit the website at [www.fs.fed.us/r5/inyo](http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/inyo). Reservations for these permits (except Whitney) can be made up to six months in advance of the starting date of a trip, by phone at 1-760-873-2483, fax to 1-760-873-2484, or by mail - 351 Pacu Lane, Suite 200, Bishop, CA, 93514.

**THIS WEEK'S EVENT:** Lights! Camera! Action! **October 8, 9 & 10: The 21st ANNUAL LONE PINE FILM FESTIVAL - The Trail to Lone Pine.** Lone Pine and the Alabama Hills have been a Hollywood favorite movie location since the 20s. A great variety of activities are scheduled to highlight this remarkable film history, including location tours, stars, panel discussions, live music, a parade and of course the movies! For information, visit the web site [www.lonepinefilmfestival.org](http://www.lonepinefilmfestival.org) or call 1-760-876-9909.

Visit the **MUSEUM OF LONE PINE FILM HISTORY**, with exhibits celebrating the heroes, the films and the locations of the many movies shot in the area. A special orientation film is available on request. The museum opens daily at 10:00am, closing at 6:00pm Monday through Wednesday, at 7:00pm Thursday through Saturday, and at 4:00pm on Sunday.

## **ONGOING ACTIVITIES:**

**BODIE STATE HISTORIC PARK** is open daily 8:00am to 5:00pm; the museum is open from 9:00am to 4:00pm. Visitors should bring water, food and several layers of clothes for a visit to Bodie; dogs must be on a six ft. leash (recreation fee area).

Interpretive programs are offered at the **MONO BASIN NATIONAL FOREST SCENIC AREA/TUFA STATE RESERVE**. Nature walks are presented Saturday & Sunday at 1:00pm. Meet at the South Tufa parking lot. Check at the Visitor Center, one mile north of Lee Vining on HWY 395, open 8:00am to 5:00pm daily, for a complete list of activities.

Remember the days of the "Slim Princess"! Visit **LAWS RAILROAD MUSEUM & HISTORIC SITE**, four miles north of Bishop on HWY 6, to learn of early days in the Owens Valley. Laws is open daily 10:00am to 4:00pm.

**EASTERN CALIFORNIA MUSEUM** in Independence is open from 10:00am to 5:00pm daily with exhibits on Inyo County, including a significant collection of Native American baskets and artifacts from Manzanar NHS.

The Interpretive Center at **MANZANAR NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE**, located 5 miles south of Independence, is open daily from 9:00am to 5:30pm. Ranger programs are presented on weekends at 11:00am, 1:30pm & 3:30pm. For more program information, call 1-760-878-2194 ext. 2710. Water, sunglasses and sunscreen are a must - Please No Pets!

**DEATH VALLEY NATIONAL PARK VISITOR CENTER** at Furnace Creek is open daily from 8:00am to 5:00pm. **SCOTTY'S CASTLE** has "Living History" tours from 9:30am to 4:00pm daily.

**BLM JAWBONE STATION REGIONAL OHV FACILITY** is open 9:00am to 5:00pm daily for trip assistance. The station is located 25 miles north of Mojave on SR 14 for pre-trip information; call 1-760-373-1146.

Reports on current recreation conditions, schedules of planned events and detailed information on visitor destinations throughout the Eastern Sierra Nevada and Northern Mojave Desert are available daily at the Visitor Center. 10/6/10kcw